2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Working paper submitted by Nigeria

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

1. The Conference considers the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones as important contribution by non-nuclear-weapon States in promoting the nuclear non-proliferation regime at regional levels. In particular, the Conference continues to consider the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament. The Conference stresses the importance of signature and ratification of the treaties of Rarotonga and Pelindaba and their Protocols by all the States that have not yet done so. The Conference welcomes the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions where they do not exist, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States in the regions concerned. In this regard, Conference welcomes the decision of all five Central Asian States to sign the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty as soon as possible. The Conference takes notes of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status as an important measure towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime in that region.

2. The Conference reaffirms the need for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the region.

3. The Conference welcomes the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones that took place in Mexico from 26-28 April 2005 and the Declaration adopted at that Conference. States Parties affirm that the Conference should continue to enhance cooperation among the treaty zones and strengthen the nuclear-weapon-free zone regime thus contributing to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation processes.

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